


M E R R I E C O N C E I T E D I E S T S :

Of G E O R G E P E E L E Gentle-
man, sometimes a Student in
O X F O R D .

Wherein is shewed the course of his life, how
he liued: a man very well knowne in
the Citie of L O N D O N , and
elsewhere.

 *Buy, read, and iudge,
The price doe not grudge:
It will doe thee more pleasure,
Then twice so much treasure.*



L O N D O N ,

Printed by G. P. for F. Faulkner, and are to be sold
at his Shop in Southwarke, neere Saint
Margarets Hill. 1627.

MERRIE CONCEITED

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LONDON,

Printed by G. F. for F. Walford, and are to be sold
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Clement's Church, 1627.

The Iests of GEORGE PEELE, with foure of his Companions at BRAINFORD.

George, with others of his Associates, being in company together at the Tanerne, having more store of Coyne then usually they did possesse, although they were as regardlesse of their Silver, as a garden whose fruit is of her honesty: yet they intended for a season to become good husbands, if they knew how to be sparing of that their pockets were the furnished withall: Five pounds they had amongst them, and a plot must be cast how they might best merite with extraordinary cheere three or foure dayes, and haue their five pounds whols in stocke: George Peele was the man must doe it, as none, and generally they confided him by their loves, his owne credit, and the reputation that went on him, that he would but in this shew his wit: and withall he should haue all the furtherance that in them lay. George as easie as they earnest to be wonne to such an exploit, consented, and gathered their money together, and gave it all to George, who should be their Purse-bearer, and the other foure should seeme as servants to George Peele; and the better to colour it, they should geue change their clothes, the one like the other, in uerses as they should please: the English at Belzebubs brother the Brokers, they

might quickly doe: This was soone accomplished, and George was furnished with his blacke Battin suit, and a paire of bootes, which were as familiar to his legges, as the pilli-walke, Pickers or Colliers Herke, and hee sufficiently posselt his friends with the whole scope of his intent, as, gentle Reader, the sequell will shew: Instantly they tooke a paire of Dares, whose armes were to make a false gallop no further then Wainsford, where their faire was paid them so liberally, that each of them the next tide to London, purchased two new wasscoates, yet should these good benefactors come to their vsual places of trade, and if they spie a better fare than their owne, that happily the Gentleman hath more mind to goe withall, they will not onely fall out with him, but is of their owne sweet transporters, as they are, but chuse the fare they carrie with foule speeches, as a Boate of the Death goe with you as their Godfather Caron the Ferry man of Well had taught them: I speake now this of an, but be some that are brought up in the East, some in the West, some in the South, but most part in the County, but for the rest, they are honest compleat men, leaving them to come to my friend George, who is now at the three Pigeons in Wainsford with Bachel and Wiggary, not any more wanting, the physicians playing, his host drinking, my host is dancing with the boys, his full suite, his daughter is an other maid, and his man full beards in Wainsford named Robert and William, and his men with his men: the cause hee doth not so conveniently as hee doth, by reason of a wyewitch with hee had: my friend has his game with all his owne talismant, her house could not forbeare, George had paid my wife, To which was painted was a sign to some water, from George Pele is in old days to bring in that fine picture there was spent, which was in the begotten: Being set at dinner, my host, my wife, my

George,

George, how late the Wyne out for London; not till the evening; quoth mine Hoste, have you any business Sir? Yes marry, quoth George, I intend not to goe home this two dayes: Therefore my Hoste saddled my man a horse for London, if you be so well furnished, for I must send him for one bag more; quoth George, ten pounds hath I come no further this six moneths. I am ill furnished if I cannot furnish you with that; quoth my Hoste, and presently saddled him a good bag, and away ridea one of Georges men to London, attending the goodhoure of his Master Peele in London; in the meane time, George betwix his great cheate to supper, saying, He expected some of his scholars from London: Now you must imagine there was not a peny owing in the house, for he had paid as libeall as Caesar, as far as Caesars wealth went. For indeed most of the money was one Caesars an honest man yet living in London; but to the Catastrophe. All the day before, had one of the other men of George Peele sent a great soliciter to my Hoste, he would beg leave of his Master he might goe see a maid, a sweet heart of his to see her Kingdome, and before his Master went to bed he would returne againe; saying, he was sure she might commend it at his Masters hands. My kinde Hoste willing to pleasure the yong fellow, knowing in her time what belonged to such matters, went to Master Peel, and moved him in it: which he nigerly refused: but she was to earnest in it, that she thought she should not deny her; pretending he went but to see an uncle of his some five miles off: Parry I thank you, quoth George, my good Hoste, would you so accept me; hath the name he more left, then at this time to goe, knowing I have no more here; and would he have collanage about Ray, good Sir, quoth mine Hoste, be not angry, it is not his intent to goe about: for hee shall have my share, and I will

assure you Sir, upon my word, he shall be here againe, to
 haue you to bed; wel, quoth George Pecke, He take you
 at your word, let him goe, his negligence shall light vpon
 you. So be it, quoth mine Hostess, so doth good she and
 sends away Till Thomas, for so she calls him, to his
 sweet heart backt vpon her spere: which Thomas
 instead of riding to Kingstone, took London in his way,
 where meeting with my other hoysleman, attended the ar-
 riuall of George Pecke, which was not long after they are
 at London, George in his Chamber at Wynters, in
 accompanie with none but one Anthony Nit a Barber,
 Iohn Widdand kept with him continually, of whom hee
 had borrowed a Lute to passe away the melancholy
 afternone, of which he could play as well as Banckes
 his boye. The Barber here modestly takes his leave,
 George obligingly bids him to supper, who (God
 willing) would not faile. George being left alone
 with his two Tapped men, gave them the meane word to
 escape, and looking in the Court, George found fault
 with the weather, saying, it was rainish and cold: which
 mine Hostess hearing, my kind Hostess fetched her
 husbands hallday Gowne, which George thankfully put
 about him, and withall called for a cup of sacke, after
 which he went in with the into the Bedchamber, and put on
 vpon his Lute. This god for your worship to do so, quoth
 mine Hostess which was the George took directly to his
 where buying the advantage of a paire of Downe at hand,
 made his home to London, his two Associates be-
 hind had the plot in their heads by Georges instruction
 for their escape: for they knew he was gone, my Hostess
 he was in the Sparket buying of provision for supper,
 mine Pecke by that at Tables, and my two masterlesse
 men desired the maids to excuse them if their Master
 came for, quoth they, hee will get him a two pence with
 my Louing Smithes wife at old Wynters. I warrant
 you,

with the spawles. So a day went my men to the souths at old Bainsford, from thence to London, where they all met, and told the Boyle and the Ware, the Colone and the Rute, what money was so hardily spent, as it had lately got. Now my word and my word is true when they saw the extent of this; goe but to the three Pigeons at Bainsford, you shall know.

10. The following information is provided for the year ended 31 December 2014:

The rest of *George and the Barber*. In an un-
derstand manner, and in a short time, George
George was not so merry at London with his
Cousin and Sister, as poor Anthony the Barber long
sympathized at Whiniford for the sake of his Late, there-
fore determined to come to London to take out George
Peele, with by the means of a friendman that Anthony
Nichols in London his name was, Cures of Peatry, a Jew
lent that his wife still in touch with the Cards, and his
was well acquainted with the place where Georges chil-
dren above was: And for minded sake he directed the
Barber where he should have him, which was at a blind
Sticks to be seen, and where he found George in a
great gorkin, a blind man's sister fast out, that, all alone
at a pack of Officers. The Barber heart hand with him,
for joy he had so happily found him, he gave him the
first of the day. George not a little abashed at the sight of
the Barber, yet went on and answered openly, he that at
all times had a gentle intention, was not now behind
him to entertain any Barber, who asked for what his
counting was, George then relates him, my dear Bar-
ber, quoth George, welcome to London, I partly know
your business, you come for your Late, do you not? I in-
vited you, quoth the Barber, for that is my coming. And
believe me, quoth George, you shall not lose your labour.

Up; as you stand; to and eat on my Ben; and all goe with
 you presently: For a Gentleman in the Citie of great
 Import, he rated it of me for the Use of his Daughter,
 that playes very well, and had a great desire to have
 the same; but Sir, if you will goe along with me to the
 Gentlemans house, you shall have your Lute with great
 satisfaction, for had not you come, I assure you I had sent
 to you, for you must understand, that all that was done
 at Wainford among vs many Gentlemen, was but a Jest
 and no otherwise. But I thinke not any otherwise,
 quoth the Barber: but I would desire your worship, that
 as you had it of me in Lute, so in kindnesse you would
 helpe me to it againe. On God what a good man George
 Fleete was, the presently, once as I am, for I came
 from hunting this morning: and should I goe by to the
 certaine Gentlemen above, I should hardly get away, I
 thanke you Sir, quoth the Barber, so on goes George with
 him in his greene Jerkin and band, with his hand very well,
 till he came almost at the Aldermans House, where man-
 king a fodaine stay, I saye God, quoth George, I must
 stand by payment at this instant, for I have not bought
 my selfe, should I goe as I am, it would be imagined I had
 had some of my Lords hounds out this morning, there-
 fore he take my leave of the, and went to the where thou
 wilt about one of the Clock, say god Sir, quoth the Bar-
 ber, god with me Sir: for I purpose, God willing, to be at
 Wainford to night, with thou, quoth George, why then
 he tell thee what thou shalt doe thou art here a stranger,
 and altogether unknowne, lend me thy Cloake and thy
 Hat, and doe thou put on my greene Jerkin, and he goe
 with thee directly along. The Barber tooke him up
 till he had his Lute, yielded to the change, so when they
 came to the Gentlemans porch he put on Georges greene
 Jerkin, and his Spanish Hat; and he the Barbers Cloake
 and

The Fells of George Peck

George made way for the Barber, saying him any more, and all the way he went could not but laugh at his knauish conceit: how he had gild the simple Barber, who sat all this while with the Master blawing of his nayles: to whom came this fellow that let out George. Now whose was he? Kall, quoth the fellow, are you come to see off any honest Gentleman in my Masters house? Not I, to God helpe me, quoth the Barber: I pray for others is the Gentleman Master Peck: that came along with me & Farrenough, quoth the fellow; for your coming nere him, he is gone out at the Garden doore. Garden doore, quoth the Barber: why have you any more doores then one? We haue fir, and get you hence: He let you going Goodman Barber. Alas, quoth the Barber, fir I am no Barber, I am quite undone: I am a Barber dwelling at Wainsays, and with weeping teares vp and told him how George had used him. The servant goes in & tells his Master: which when he heard, he could not but laugh at the fellow: yet in pittie of the poore Barber, he gave him twenty shillings towards his losse. The Barber sighing took it, and towards Wainsays home he goes, and whereas he came from thence in a new Cloake and a faire Hat, hea went home weeping in an old Hat, and a greene Jerken.

How George Peck became a Physician

George on a time being happily furnished both of hope and money, though the hope he hired, and the money he borrowed: but no matter how he was posses of them: and towards Oxford he comes to make merry with his friends and fellow students: and in his way he looks by Wicksam, where he sojourned that night: Being at supper accompanied with his friends: among other tales,

ble talke, they fell into discourse of Chirurgerie, of which my Hostis was a simple prolesso. George Peele obseruing the humour of my the Chirurgeon, appella her in all the strange cures she talked of, and praised her womanly endeavour; telling her, he loved her so much the better, because it was a thing that he professed, both Physicke & Chirurgerie: and George had a Dictionary of Physicall termes, that it might set a better glosse upon that which he seemingly profess: and told his good Hostis, at his returne he would teach her something that should doe her no hurt: for (quoth he) at this instant I am going about a great Cure as farre as Warwick-shire, to a Gentleman of great living, and one that hath bene in a Consumption this halfe yeere, and I hope to doe him good. O God, (quoth the Hostis) there is a Gentleman not a quarter of a Mile off, that hath bene a long time sicke of the same disease: Helpe me, Sir, quoth the Hostis, would it please your Worship ere your departure in the morning, but to visit the Gentleman, and but spend your opinion of him, and I make no question but the Gentlewoman will bee very thankfull to you. I faith (quoth George, happily at my returne I may; but at this time my haste is such that I cannot: and so good night, mine Hostis. So away went George to bed; and my giddy Hostis, right of the nature of most women, thought that night as long as tenne, till shee was deliuered of that burthen of newes which she had receiued from my new Doctor: (for so shee termed himselfe.) Morning being come, at break of the day mine Hostis trudge to this Gentlemans house, acquainteth his wife what an excellent man she had at her house: protesting he was the best scient in Physicke, and had done the most strangest cures that euer she heard of: saying, that if shee would but lend for him, no question he would doe him good. The Gentlewoman

fiewoman glad to heare of any thing that might procure
 the health of her Husband, presently sent one of her men,
 to desire the Doctor to come and visit her Husband:
 Which message when George heard, hee wondered: for
 hee had no moze skill in Physicke then in Musicke, and
 they were as distant both from him, as heauen from hell.
 But, to conclud, George set a bold face on it, and away
 went he to the sicke Gentleman; where when hee came,
 after some complement to the Gentlewoman, hee was
 brought to the Chamber where the ancient Gentleman
 lay wonderfull sicke: for all Physicke had giuen him
 ouer: George begins to feele his Pulses and his
 temples, saying, hee was very farre spent: yet, quoth
 hee, vnder G D I will doe him some good, if Pa-
 tience bee not quite extinct. Whereupon hee demanded
 whether they had euer a Garden? What I haue, quoth
 the Gentlewoman. I pray you direct me thither, quoth
 George. Where when hee came, hee cut a handfull
 of euery Flower, Verbe and Blossome, or whatsoeuer
 else in the Garden: and brought them in in the lap
 of his Cloake, boyled them in Ale;strained them;
 boyled them againe; and when he had all the iuyce out
 of them, of which he made some pottle of drinke, he cau-
 sed the sicke Gentleman to drinke off a mandlin Cup full,
 and willed his wife to giue him of that same at morning,
 noone, and night: protesting, if any thing in this
 world did him good, it must bee that: giuing great
 charge to the Gentlewoman to keepe him wonderfull
 warme: and at my returne, quoth George, some tenne
 dayes hence, I will returne and see how he fares: For,
 quoth he, by that time something will be done; and so I
 will take my leaue. Not so, quoth the Gentlewoman,
 your Worshipp must needs stay and take a simple
 dinner with mee to day. Indeede, quoth George, I
 cannot.

cannot now say: my haste is such, I must presently to Horse. You may suppose George was in haste untill he was out of the Gentlemans house: for hee knew not whether hee had paysoned the Gentleman or not, which made him so eager to bee gone out of the Gentlemans house. The Gentlewoman seeing she could by no meanes stay him, gave him two brace of Angels, which neuer shined long in his purse, and desired him at his returne to know her house: which George promised, and with seeming-nideneesse tooke the gold, and towards Oxford went he, forty shillings heavier then he was, where hee hazely dominered while his Physicall money lasted. But to see the strangenesse of this: Whether it was the vertue of some herbe which hee gathered, or the conceit the Gentleman had of George Peele, but it so pleased GOD the Gentleman recovered, and in eight dayes walked abroad; and that fortunate potion which George made at random, did him more good then many pounds that he had spent in halfe a yeere before in Physicke. George his money being spent, he made his returne towards London; and when he came within a mile of the Gentlemans house, hee enquired of a Countrey fellow how such a Gentleman did. The fellow told him, God be praised, his good Landlozd was well recovered by a vertuous Gentleman that came this way by chance. Art thou sure of it, quoth George? Yes, beleue me, quoth the fellow, I saw him in the fields but this morning. This was no simple newes to George. He presently set spurs to his Horse, and whereas hee thought to winne the Towne, hee went directly to his Anne: at whose arrivall, the Hostis clapt her hands, the Daffler laught, the Tapster teapt, the Chamberlaine ran to the Gentlemans house, and told him the Doctor was come. What joyfull the Gentleman was, let them imagine that haue

any after healths. George Peele was sent for, and after a Million of thanks from the Gentleman and his friends, George Peele had 20. pounds delivered him: which money, how long it was a spending, let the Taverners in London witness.

How George helped his friend to a Supper.

George was invited one night by certaine of his friends to supper, at the White Horse in Friday street; and in the evening as he was going, hee met with an old friend of his, who was so ill at the stomacke, hearing George tell him of the good cheere he went to, himselfe being vnprouided both of meate and money, that he thought he had rather haue gone a mile about, then haue met him at that instant. And beleeue me, quoth George, I am heartily sorry that I cannot take thee along with mee, my selfe being but an invited guest; besides, thou art out of thy wits, unfitting for such a company. May this Ile doe, if thou wilt follow my aduice, Ile helpe thee to thy supper. Any way, quoth hee to George, doe thou but deuise the meanes, and Ile execute it. George presently tolde him what hee should doe; so they parted. George well entertained, with extraordinary welcome, and seated at the vpper end of the Table, Supper being brought vp, H. D. watched his time below; and when he saw that the meate was carried vp, by hee folloves, (as George had directed him;) who when George saw, You who? son Rascall, (quoth George) What make you heere: Sir, quoth he, I am come from the partie you wot of. You Rogue, quoth George, haue I not forewarned you of this? I pray you, Sir, quoth hee, heare my Errand. Doe you prate, you slane, quoth George: and

and with that, tooke a Rabbet out of the Dish, and threw it at him: Quoth hee, you vse mee very hardly. You Dunghill, quoth George, doe you out-face me? and with that, tooke the other Rabbet, and threw it at his head; after that a Loafe; then drawing his Dagger, making an offer to throw it, the Gentlemen staid him: meane while H. M. got the Loafe and the two Rabbets, and away he went: which when George saw he was gone, after a little fretting, he sat quietly. So by that honest shift he helped his friends to his supper, and was neuer suspected for it of the company.

How George Peele was shauert, and of the reuenge he tooke.

There was a Gentleman that dwelt in the West Country, and had staid here in London a Yearre longer then hee intended; by reason of a Booke that George had to translate out of Greeke into English: and when he wanted money, George had it of the Gentleman: but the more he supplied him wth Coine, the further off hee drew from his Booke, and could get no end of it, neither by faire meanes, entreatie, or double payment: for George was of the Poeticall disposition, neuer to write so long as his money lasted; some quarter of the Booke being done, and lying in his hands at randome. The Gentleman had plotted a meanes to take such an order with George next time he came, that he would haue his Booke finished. It was not long befoze he had his company; his arrivall was for more money: the Gentleman bids him welcome; causeth him to stay dinner, where falling into discourse about his Booke, found that it was as nere ended as he left it two moneths ago. The Gentleman,

Gentleman, meaning to be gul'd no longer, caused two of his
 men to binde George hand and foot in a Chayze: a folly
 it was for him to aske what they meant by it: the Gen-
 tleman sent for a Barber, and George had a beard of an
 indifferent size, and well growne: he made the Barber
 shauē him beard and head, left him as bare of haire, as
 he was of money: the Barber he was well contented for
 his paines, who left George like an old woman in mans
 apparell; and his boye became it well, for it was more
 woman then man. George, quoth the Gentleman, I
 haue alwayes vsed you like a friend, my purse hath bene
 open to you: that you haue of mine to translate, you
 know it is a thing I highly esteeme; therefore I haue v-
 sed you in this fashion, that I might haue an end of my
 Booke, which shall be as much for your profit as my
 pleasure. So forth-with he commanded his men to vn-
 binde him, and putting his hand into his pocket, gaue him
 two brace of Angels: quoth hee, Master Peele, drinke
 this, and by that time you haue finished my booke, your
 beard will be growne, untill which time, I know you
 will be ashamed to walke abroad. George patiently tooke
 the gold, said little, and when it was darke night, tooke
 his leave of the Gentleman, and went directly home:
 who when his wife saw, I omit the wonder shee made,
 but imagine those that shall behold their husbands in such
 a case. To bed went George, and ere morning hee had
 plotted sufficiently how to cry quid pro quo with his po-
 liticke Gentleman.

The Iest of George Peele at Bristow.

GEORGE was at Bristow, and there staying somewhat longer then his coyne would last him, his Dalfrey that should bee his Carrier to London, his head was growne so big, that he could not get him out of the stable: it so forluned at that instant; certaine Players came to the Towne, and lay at that Inne where George Peele was: to whom George was well knowne, being in that time an excellent Poet, and had acquaintance of most of the best Players in England: from the trinitall sort hee was but so so; of which these were, only knew George by name, no otherwise. There was not past three of the companie come with the Carriage, the rest were behinde, by reason of a long Journey they had; so that night they could not enact; which George hearing, had presently a Stratageme in his head to get his Horse free out of the stable; and Monoy in his purse to beare his charges vp to London: And thus it was: Hee goes directly to the Maior, tels him he was a Schotler and a Gentleman, and that he had a certaine Victorie of the Knight of the Rodes; and withall, how Bristow was first founded; and by whom, and a brieve of all those that before him had succeeded in Office in that worshipfull Citie: desiring the Maior, that he, with his presence, and the rest of his Brethren, would grace his labors. The Maior agreed to it, gave him leaue, and withall appointed him a place: but for himselfe, hee could not be there, being in the euening: but bade him make the best benefit he could of the Citie; and very liberally gave him an Angell, which George thankfully receiues, and about his businesse he goes, got his Stage made, his Victorie cryed, and

and hyred the Players Apparell, to flourish out his Sheiw, promising to pay them liberally; and withall desired them they would fauour him so much, as to gather him his money at the doore: (for hee thought it his best courte to imploy them, lest they should spie out his knauerie; for they haue perillous heads.) They willingly yeld to doe him any kindnes that lyes in them; in bytise, carry their apparell to the Hall, place themselues at the doore, where George in the meane time, with the tenne shillings he had of the Patro, deliuered his Horse out of Purgatorie, and carries him to the Towres end, and there placeth him, to be ready at his coming. By this time the Audience were come, and some sixty shillings gathered, which money George put in his purse, and putting on one of the Players silke Robes, after the Trumpet had sounded thrice, out he comes, makes low obeysance, goes forward with his Prologue, which was thus:

A trifling Toy, a Iest of no account, pardie.

The Knight, perhaps, you thinke for to bee I.

Think on so still; for why, you know that thought is
Sit still a while, I'll send the Actors to ye. (free,

Which being said, after some firewoorkes that hee had made of purpose, throw out among them, and dwayne Mayres goes he, gets to his Horse, and so with forty shillings to London; leaues the Players to answer it; who when the Iest was knowne, their innocence excused them, heeing as well gilled as the Patro and the Audience.

How

How George gulled a Puncke, oherwise
called a Croshabell;

C Darning to London, hee fell in company with a Cockatrice; which pleased his eye so well, that George fell aboording of her, and proffered her the wine: which my Croshabell willingly accepted: to the Tavernes they goe, where after a little idle talk; George fell to the question about the thing you tooke of. My the Hobby was very dainty, which made George erre more eager; and my lecherous animall proffered largely to obtaine his purpose. To conclude, nothing she would grant unto, except ready coyne, which was forty shillings, not a farthing lesse: if so he would, next night she would appoint him where he should meete her. George saw how the game went, that she was more for lucre than for love, thus cunningly answered her: Gentlewoman, howsoever you speake, I doe not thinke your heart agrees with your tongue; the money you demand is but to try mee: and indeed but a trifle to me: but because it shall not bee said I bought that Gemme of you I prize so highly, Ile give you a token to morrow, that shall bee more worth then your demand, if so you please to accept it. Sir, quoth she, it contenteth me well: and so, if please you, at this time take part, and to morrow in the evening meete you where you shall appoint. The place was determined, and they kiss and parted, shee home, George into Saint Thomas Apostles, to a friend of his, of whom he knew he could take up a Petticoat of trust: (the first letter of his name begins with G.) A Petticoat hee had of him, at the price of five shillings; which money is owing till this day. The next night beeing come, they

met at the place appointed, which was a Tauerne; there they were to suppe: that ended, George was to goe home with her, to end his Peomans plee in her common case. But Master Peele had another drift in his mazzard: for he did so ply her with wine, that in a small time shee spunne such a thread, that shee reeled homewards, and George he was faine to be her supporter: when to her house she came, with nothing so much painting in the inside, as her face had on the outside: with much ado her Maide had her to bed, who was no sooner laid, but shee fell fast asleepe: which when George perceined, hee sent the Maide for a Pilke, and a quart of Backe to make a bolster: where before her returne, George made so bold as to take by his owne new Petticoate, a faire Colone of hers, two gold Rings that lay in the window, and away he went: the Colone and the gold Rings hee made a chaffer of: the Petticoate hee gaue to his honest Wife, one of the best deedes he euer did to her. Now the Crossbellt looke when he awaked and saw this, I was neuer there to know.

How the Gentleman was gulled for
showing of George.

GEORGE had a Daughter of the age of tenne yeeres, a Girl of a pretty forme, but of an excellent wit: all part of her was Father, save her middle: and she had George so torozed all night, that although himselfe was the Author of it, yet had hee beene transformed into his Daughters shape, he could not haue done it with more content. George at that time dwelt at the Banke-stee, from whence comes this the-Annaw, early in the morning, with her haire dichenalled, wzinging her hands, and

and making such pittifull moone with sighes and teares,
 and beating of her bzell, that made the people in a maze:
 some stood wondering at the Child; others plucked her,
 to know the occasion; but none could say her by any
 meanes, but on her kept her journey, crying, O, her
 Father, her good Father, her deare Father, ouer the
 Bridge, the Cheape-side, and so to the Old Bailey,
 where the Gentleman solourned; there sitting her selfe
 doونه, a hundred people gazing vpon her, there she be-
 gins to cry out, Come to that place, that her Father euer
 saw it: He was a call-away, her Mother was undone:
 till with the noise, one of the Gentlemans men coming
 doونه, looked on her, and knew her to be George Peeles
 Daughter: hee presently runnes vp, and tels his Ma-
 ster, who commanded his man to bring her vp. The
 Gentleman was in a cold sweat, fearing that George had
 for the wrong that he did him the day before, some way
 undone himselfe. When the Girl came vp, hee deman-
 ded the cause why she so lamented, and called vpon her
 Father? George his selfe and blood; after a million
 of sighs, cryed out vpon him, he had made her Father,
 her good Father, doونه himselfe. Which words once he-
 tered, she fell into a counterfeite swoone, inwhom the Gen-
 tleman soone recovered. This newes went to his heart,
 and he being a man of a very milde condition, cheered by
 the Girl, made his men to go buy her new cloathes from
 top to toe, said he would be a Father to her, gaue her five
 pounds, bid her go home and carry it to her mother, and in
 the euening he would visit her. At this, by little and lit-
 tle she began to be quiet; desiring him to come and see her
 Mother. He tels her, he will not faile, bids her goe home
 quietly. So doونه Mayes goes she peartly, and the won-
 dring people that staid at doونه, to heare the manner of
 her griefe, had of her naught but knowly answers, and

home went she directly. The Gentleman was so crossed in mind, and disturbed in thought at this unhappy accident, that his soule could not be in quiet, till he had bene with this wofull widdow, as hee thought, and presently went to Blacke Fryers, tooke a payze of Dares, and went directly to George Peeles house, where hee found his Wife plucking of Larkes, my crying Crocodile turning of the spit, and George pinn'd by in a blanket, at his translation. The Gentleman, more glad at the unlookt for life of George, then the losse of his money, tooke part of the good cheere George had to dinner, wondred at the running of the Wench, and within some few daies after had an end of his Booke.

How George read a Play-booke to
a Gentleman.

There was a Gentleman, whom G D D had indued with good living to maintaine his small wit: hee was not a Foole absolute, although in this world he had good fortune: and hee was in a manner an Angle to George, one that tooke great delight to haue the first hearing of any worke that George had done, himselfe being a wryter, and had a poeticall invention of his owne, which when he had with great labour finished, their satall end was for priuie purposes. This selfe-conceited booke had George inuited to halfe a score sheetes of paper, whose Christianly pen had writ Finis to the famous Play of the Turkish Mahamet, and Hyrin the faire Greeke, in Italian called a Courtesan, in Spaine, a Paragerite, in French, vn Curtain, in England, among the barbarous, a Whore, but among the Gentle, their vsuall associates, a Puncke: but now the word refined being latest,

latell, and the authoritie brought from a Climate as yet
 unconquered, the fruitfull Countie of Bent, they call
 them Croshabell, which is a word but lately used, and fit-
 ting with their trade, being of a lonely and courteous
 condition. Leaving them: This Fantasticke, whose
 bzaire was made of nought but Cozke and Spunge,
 came to the cold lodging of Monsieur Peele, in his blacke
 Sattin Sute, his Cowne furred with Cony, in his Slip-
 pers: being in the evening, he thought to heare Georges
 booke, and so to returne to his Inne; (this not of the
 wisest, being of Saint Barnards.) George bids him wel-
 come, told him he would gladly haue his opinion in his
 booke. He willingly condescended, and George beginnes
 to reade, and betweene enery Sceau hee would make
 pauses, and demand his opinion, how hee liked the car-
 riage of it. Quoth he, wondrous well, the conueyance.
 A, but (quoth George) the end is farre better: (for hee
 meant another conueyance e're they two departed.)
 George was very tedious in reading, and the night grew
 old: I protest, quoth the Gentleman, I haue staide ouer-
 long, I feare me I shall hardly get into mine Inne. If
 you feare that, quoth George, wee will haue a cleane
 paire of sheetes, and you shall take a simple lodging here.
 This house-gull willingly embraced it, and to bed they
 goe, where George in the midst of the night spying his
 time, put on this Dormouse his cloathes, desired God to
 keepe him in good rest, honestly takes leaue of him and
 the House, to whom hee was indebted foure Nobles.
 When this Drome awaked, and found himselfe so left,
 he had not the wit to be angry, but swoore scurrily at the
 misfortune, and said, I thought hee would not haue vsed
 me so. And although it so pleased the Fates he had ano-
 ther sute to put on, yet he could not get thence, till he had
 paid the money George ought to the house, which for

his credit he did : and when he came to his lodging, in anger he made a Poem of it :

Peele is no Poet, but a Gull and Clowne,
To take away my cloathes and Gowne :
I vow by Ioue, if I can see him weare it,
He giue him a glyg, and patiently beare it.

How George Peele serued halfe a
score Citizens.

GEORGE once had inuited halfe a score of his friends to a great Supper, where they were passing merry, no thare wanting, wine enough, musicke playing: the night growling on, & being vpon departure, they call for a reckoning. George swears there is not a penny for them to pay. They, being men of good fashion, by no meanes will peeke vnto it, but every man thowes downe his money, some tenne shillings, some five, some more: protesting something they will pay. Well, quoth George, taking vp all the money; seeing you will be so wilfull, you shall see what shall follow: he commands the musicke to play, and while they were skipping and dancing, George gets his cloake, sends by two Bottles of Hypocriss, and leaues them and the reckoning to pay. They wondring at the stay of George, meant to be gone; but they were staide by the way, and befoze they went, forced to pay the reckoning anew. This shewed a mind in him, he cared not whom he deceiued, so he profited himselfe for the present.

A Iest of George, riding to Oxford.

There was some halfe dozen of Citizens, that had oftentimes beene solliciters to George, he being a Master of Art at the Uniuerſitie of Oxford, that hee would ride with them to the Commencement, it being at Midſomer. George, willing to pleasure the Gentlemen his friends, rode along with them. When they had rode the better part of the way, they baited at a Village called Stoken, ſixe miles from Wickham: good cheere was beſpoken for dinner; and frolicke was the company, all but George, who could not be in that pleasant vaine that did ordinarily poſſeſſe him, by reaſon he was without money: but he had not fetcht ſortie turnes about the Chamber, beſore his noddle had entertained a conceit how to money himſelfe with credit, and yet gleane it from ſome one of the company. There was among them one excellent Aſſe, a fellow that did nothing but friſke vp and downe the Chamber, that his money might bee heard chide in his pocket: this fellow had George obſerued, and ſecretly canuay'd his gilt Rapier & Dagger into another Chamber, and there cloſely hid it: that done, he called vp the Tapſter, and vpon his cloake borrowes 5 ſhillings for an houre or ſo, till his man came, (as he could ſaſhion it well enough:) ſo much money he had, and then who moze merry then George? Feate was brought vp, they ſet themſelues to dinner, all full of mirth, eſpecially my little ſole, who thanke not of the concluſion of their feaſt: dinner ended, much prattle paſt, euery man begins to buckle to his furniture: among whom this Pichcock miſſed his Rapier: at which all the company were in a maze; he beſides his wits; for he had borrow'd it of a ſpecaill friend of his,
and

and swoze he had rather spend twenty Nobles. This is strange, quoth George, it should be gone in this fashion, none being heere but our selues and the fellowes of the house: who were examined, but no Kapler could be heard of: all the company much grieved; but George in a piftisfull chafe, swoze it should cost him forty Shillings, but hee would know what was become of it, if Art could doe it: and with that he caused the Daffler to saddle his Bag, so George would ride to a Scholler, a friend of his, that had skill in such matters. A, good M. Peele, quoth the fellow, want no money, heere is forty Shillings, see what you can doe, and, if you please, Ile ride along with you. Not so, quoth George, taking his forty Shillings, Ile ride alone, and be you as merry as you can till my returne. So George left them, and rode directly to Oxford, there he acquaints a friend of his with all the circumstance, who presently tooke Horse, and rode along with him to laugh at the Jest. When they came backe, George tels them he had brought one of the rarest men in England: whom they with much complement bid welcome. He, after a distracted countenance, and strange words, takes this Bulfinch by the wrist, and carried him into the priory, and there willed him to put in his head, but while he had written his name and told forty: which hee willingly did: that done, the Scholler asked him what he saw? By my faith Sir, I smelt a villanous sent, but I saw nothing. Then I haue, quoth hee; and with that directed him where his Kapler was: saying, It is inff Poyth-Cast, inclozed in wood, neere the earth: so; which they all made diligent search, till George, who hid it vnder a settle, found it, to the comfort of the fellow, the ioy of the company, and the eternall credit of his friend, who was entertained with Wine and Sugar; and George redeemed his Cloake, rode merrily to Oxford, hauing Coine

coyne in his pocket, where this Leach spares not for any
expence, for the good fortune he had in the happy finding
of his Master.

How George served his Hostis.

George lying at an old Widdowes house, and had
gone so farre on the Score, that his credit would
stretch no further: so she had made a vow, not to depart
with drinke or victuals without ready money: Which
George seeing the fury of his forward Hostis, in griefe
kept his Chamber; called to his Hostis, and told her, she
should understand that he was not without money, how
posely soeuer he appeared to her, and that my diet shall
testifie: in the meane time, good Hostis, quoth he, send
for such a friend of mine. Shee did: so his friend came:
to whom George imparted his mind: the effect whereof
was this, to payne his Cloake, Vose and Doublet, un-
knowne to his Hostis: so, quoth George, this seven
nights doe I intend to keepe my bed. (Truly hee spake;
for his intent was, the bed should not keepe him any lon-
ger.) Away goes he to payne his apparell; George be-
speakes good cheere to supper, which was no Hamble-
butcher Stuffe, but according to the place: so, his Cham-
ber being remote from the house, at the end of the Gar-
den, his apparell being gone, it appeared to him as the
Counter, therefore to comfort himselfe, he dealt in Pont-
rie. His friend brought the money, supped with him:
his Hostis hee very liberally payed, but cancelled with
her at her unkindnesse: knowing that while he lay there,
none would attend him but his friend. The Hostis re-
plied, A Gods name, she was well contented with it:
so was George too: for none knew better then himselfe

what he intended, but in vylete, thus he bled his Mide
 Hostis. After his Apparell and Money was gone, hee
 made bolde with the Featherbed hee lay on, which his
 friend Silly conney'd away, haning as villanous a Wolfe
 in his belly as George, though not altogether so wise; so
 that featherbed they deuoured in two daies, feathers and
 all: which was no sooner digested, but away went the
 Coperlet, Sheetes, and the Blancket; and at the last
 dinner, when Georges good friend perceiuing nothing
 left but the bed cords, as the Deuill would haue it,
 straight came in his mind the fashon of a halter; the foo-
 lish kind knaue would needs fetch a quart of sacke for
 his friend George; which Sacke to this day neuer saw
 Wintners Cellar: and so he left George in a cold Cham-
 ber, a thin shirt, a raulshed bed, no comfort left him, but
 the bare bones of deceased Capons. In this distresse,
 George bethought him what he might doe; nothing was
 left him; and as his eye wandred vp and downe the emp-
 ty Chamber, by chance he spied out an old Armour; at
 which sight George was the topfullest man in Chyrtten-
 dome: so the Armour of Achilles, that Vlysses and Ajax
 stroue for, was not more precious to them, then this to
 him: so hee presently claps it vpon his backe, the Hal-
 bert in his hand, the Poyson on his head, and so gets out
 the backe way, marches from Shorditch to Clarkenwell,
 to the no smal wonder of those Spectators that beheld him.
 Being arriued to the wished haven he would be, an old
 acquaintance of his furnished him with an old Sute and
 an old Cloake for his old Armour. Now the Hostis soo-
 ked, when she saw that metamorphosis in her chamber,
 iudge those Bombardes, that line by tapping, betweene
 the age of 50 and 70.

How

How he serued a Tapster.

GEORGE was making merry with three or foure of his friends in Baye-corner; where the Tapster of the house was much giuen to Poetrie: for he had ingrosed The Knight of the Sunne, Venus and Adonis, and other Pamphlets which the Stripling had collected together; and knowing George to be a Poet, he tooke great delight in his company, and out of his bounty would bestow a brace of Cannes of him. George obseruing the humour of the Tapster, meant presently to worke vpon him. What will you say, quoth George to his friends, if out of this spirit of the Cellar, I fetch a good Angell, that shall bid vs all to supper. We would gladly see that, quoth his friends. Content your selfe, quoth George. The Tapster ascends with his two Cannes, deliueres one to Master Peele, and the other to his friends: giues them kind welcome: but George, in stead of giuing him thanks, bids him not to trouble him: and beginnes in these termes: I protest, Gentlemen, I wonder you will bidge me so much, I sweare I haue it not about me. What is the matter, quoth the Tapster: Hath any one angered you? No saith, quoth George, He tell thee, it is this: There is a friend of ours in Newgate, for nothing but onely the command of the Iustices, and he being now to be released, sends to me to bring him an Angell: now the man I loue dearely well; and if hee want tenne Angels, he shall haue them: for I know him sure: but heere is the misery; either I must goe home, or I must bee forced to payne this: and pluckes an old Harry groat out of his pocket. The Tapster lookes vpon it: Why, and it please you, Sir, quoth he, this is but a groat. No, Sir, quoth George, I know it is but a groat: but this groat

will I not lose for forty pound: for this groat had I of my mother, as a testimony of a Lease of a House I am to possesse after her decease: and if I should lose this groat, I were in a faire case: and either I must payne this groat, or there the fellow must lye still. Quoth the Tapster, If it please you, I will send you an Angell on it, and I will assure you it shall bee safe. Wilt thou, quoth George? as thou art an honest man, locke it up in thy Chest, and let me haue it whensoever I call for it. As I am an honest man, you shall, quoth the Tapster. George deliuered him his groat: the Tapster gaue him ten Shillings: to the Tauerne goe they with the money, and there merrily spend it. It fell out in a small time after, the Tapster, hauing many of these larches, fell to decay, and indeede was turned out of seruice, hauing no more come in the world then this groat: and in this miserie, mee met George, as poore as himselfe. O Sir, quoth the Tapster, you are happily met; I haue your groat safe, though since I saw you last, I haue bid great extremitie: and I protest, saue that groat, I haue not any one penny in the world; therefore I pray you Sir, helpe me to my money, and take your payne. For so, the world, quoth George: thou saist thou hast but that groat in the world: my bargain was, that thou shouldst keepe that groat untill I did demand it of thee: I aske thee none: I will doe thee farre more good: because thou art an honest fellow, keepe thou that groat still, till I call for it: and so being, the proudest Iacke in England cannot iustifie that thou art not worth a groat, otherwisse they might: and so, honest Michael, farewell. So George leaues the poore Tapster picking of his fingers, his head full of proclamations what he might doe: at last sighing, hee ends with this Dialogue:

For the price of a Barrell of Beere,
I haue bought a groats worth of wit,
Is not that deare.

How George serued a Gentlewoman.

GEORGE liued often to an *Adonart* in this *Towne*,
where a kind woman of the good wifes in the house
held a great pride and balne opinion of her stonie mother
wit: for her tongue was as a *Jacke* continually wag-
ging: And for she had heard that *George* was a *Scholler*,
she thought she would finde a time to giue him notice,
that there was as much in her head, as ever was in her
Grandfathers: yet in some things she differed from the
women in those daies: for their naturall complexion was
their beauty: now this *Timonise*, what she is created
by nature, she doth replenish by Art: as her bores of red
and white bair can testifie. But to come to *George*, who
arrived at the *Adonart* among other *Gallants*, he throwes
his *Cloake* vpon the *Table*, salutes the *Gentlemen*, and
presently calls for a cup of *Canarie*. *George* had a paire
of *Hose* on, that for some oriente durst not bee seene in
that hie they were first dyed in: but from his first colour,
being a yonthfull greene, his long age turned him into a
mournfull blacke, and for his antiquitie was in print:
whiche this bawle-body perceiuing, thought now to giue
it him to the quicke: and drawing neere *Master Peele*,
looking vpon his *Breeches*, By my troth, Sir, quoth she,
these are exceedingly well printed. At which word *George*
being a little moued in his mind, that his old hose were
called in question, answered, And by my faith, *Mistris*,
quoth *George*, your face is most damnable ill painted.
How meane you, Sir, quoth she: Parry thus, *Mistris*,

quoth George, That if it were not for printing and painting, my arse and your face would grow out of reparations. At which she biting her lip, in a parat furie went downe the stappes. The Gentlemen laughed at the sudden answer of George, and being seated to dinner, the Gentlemen would needs haue the company of this witty Gentlewoman to dyne with them; who with little denying came, in hope to cry quittance with George. When she was ascended, the Gentlemen would needs place her by M. Peele; because they did vse to hart one at another, they thought it mete. for their more safety, they should be placed neereest together. George kindly entertaines her: and being seated, he desires her to reach him the Capon that stood by her, and he would be so bold as to carue for his money: and as she put out her arme to take the Capon, George sitting by her, yerkes me out a huge fart, which made all the company in amaze, one looking upon the other: yet they knew it came that way. Peace quoth George, and lega her on the elbowe, I will say it was I. At which all the Company fell into a huge laughter, then into a fretting fury, halping neuer she should sleepe quietly, till she was reuenged of George his wrong done unto her: and so in a great chafe left their company.

FINIS.

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